

# Jude

## Bible Commentary 2021

by

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### 1:3-4

All Christians should be ready to contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints. There are men who seem especially gifted in contending for the faith. Some of these were a blessing to me and served to protect me from deception which permeates the modern church. I am thankful for the watchmen in the church who contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Jude pointed to ungodly men who turned God's grace into lasciviousness and denied the Lord Jesus Christ. It is hard to believe people think the doctrine of God's grace gives men the permission to sin. However, evidently this error was already present in the early church. Paul addressed this in **Romans 6:1-2**.

I like how Jude described the men who taught these errors and false doctrines. He said they were "*men crept in unawares*". These men are sneaky creepers. They slip in without anyone noticing and gain a position in the church where they can spread a false gospel.

Jude included a phrase which should instill the fear of God into these creepers: "ordained to this condemnation". God knew about these men already. These creepers did not slip in without God seeing them. The Lord knows their thoughts and words and actions. They are under God's condemnation. These men who teach error and false gospels are ordained to this condemnation.

A man called to teach God's word should pray constantly that he always teach the doctrine of Christ and not the doctrines of men or worse the doctrines of devils. We need to stay focused on the crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the gospel. Do not stray away from this message.

These verses are an exhortation to be diligent in studying God's word. We need to be prepared to contend for the faith. Especially today when we are living in such a time of lies and deception. We need to saturate our heart and mind in the truth of God's word.

Here are scriptures which exhort us to be prepared to defend the gospel and contend for the faith: **2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 Peter 3:15, Titus 1:13**.

## 1:5-8

Jude put Christians in remembrance. I don't know if other Christians are like me but I need to remind myself of what the Lord showed me in the past. I keep returning and reviewing scripture and truth I learned before. I forget things and I imagine other people have the same problem. So it is a good thing Jude said he was putting them in remembrance of what they once knew.

Jude reminded them of how God dealt with sin in people as a group and as individuals. He reminded them that not all those who were in Israel saved out of Egypt actually made it to the promised land. Instead, those who were unbelievers in Israel died in the wilderness. This was God's judgment on them because of their unbelief.

The book of Hebrews reminds us of this same fact and gave this exhortation: "*Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.*" (**Hebrews 3:12**)

Many people don't have a problem acknowledging God. They have a belief in God, probably not much different than the belief that devils have (**James 2:19**). This kind of belief however is not in the living God.

If faith is not in the living God then we have an evil heart of unbelief. Faith in anything or anyone other than the living God revealed in Christ Jesus is counted as unbelief.

Only faith in the living God counts for anything. Faith in the living God means a man fears God and believes in his Son the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the living God.

He is God three in one: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is displayed as prophet, priest, and king. He revealed himself to the world through Israel, the church, and the kingdom. We can see him in type and shadow through the ark of the covenant the elements contained in it (**Hebrews 9:4**). He will wrap up everything for us in the New Jerusalem which will come down out of heaven from God.

**Revelation 21:2**, "*And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*"

Jude reminded us that angels in the past chose to leave their home in heaven and descend to earth to commit sin. These angels God chained up in darkness. There are at least two different kinds of fallen angels. Jude showed there was a group which was chained up in darkness awaiting the final judgment. However, we also know there was another group of fallen angels that are working with Satan in the current world system. They are referred to by Paul in **Ephesians chapter 6** as "*principalities and powers*". Read **Ephesians 6:12**.

This is also mentioned in Daniel when an angel explained to Daniel why it took so long for him to receive an answer to his prayers. Read **Daniel 10:12-14**. There is an invisible spiritual battle taking place and we have a part in this war. This is the spiritual warfare which Paul pointed us to in **Ephesians 6**.

Jude continued to remind us about Sodom and Gomorrah and how the Lord dealt with that city. Why was Jude telling us about historical examples of God's judgment? He reminded us we need to cultivate

a fear of the living God. Also, we need to remember God's judgment upon unbelievers, backsliders, and reprobates is certain. The Lord judges sodomites, demons, evil spirits, Satan, and unbelievers. This doom is prophesied by John in Revelation. Read **Revelation 20:10-15, Revelation 21:8, Luke 12:4-5**.

## 1:14-15

Jude pronounced a woe on deceivers who creep into the church. He put them in the same category as Cain, Balaam, and Core. He gave a vivid description of their character, how they act and behave, and the damage they cause.

What will be the final result of this? How will this problem ultimately be resolved in the church?

Jude pointed to the prophecy made by Enoch about the return of the Lord. Behold, the Lord cometh! He is coming back and he is not alone. He is accompanied by ten thousands of his saints. These saints are all those resurrected during the rapture of the church and enjoyed the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in heaven while the seven years of tribulation took place on earth. At the end of that time of tribulation on earth the Lord steps back on this planet and is accompanied by the church. We will work with the Lord in the execution of judgment on this earth.

Jude repeated the word "ungodly" several times. Basically this is a description of men who have done away with God. They put God out of their individual and collective lives. They drove him out of their institutions. He was removed from their courts, their legislation, their law enforcement. He was removed from their schools and from the workplace. He was driven out of the homes and out of families.

This is a description of America today: ungodly! Without God in any way. America has separated herself from God and is now filling up the cup of her judgment. As surely as judgment fell upon the unbelievers in Israel during the wilderness, as certainly as judgment fell upon those angels who left heaven in order to sin, and as surely as judgment fell upon Sodom and Gomorrah, God's judgment is falling upon America. America will not escape the fate of every other past world empire which turned its back on God.

The Lord is returning! He will take vengeance on his adversaries. Read **Nahum 1:2-3, 6-8**. Amen, even so, return to us quickly Lord Jesus.

## 1:20-25

Praying in the Spirit means a Christian is faithfully dealing with any known sin in his life before the Lord. He confesses his sins to God, he repents, and he trusts in the Holy Spirit to enable him to live a holy life. When we are free from sin and walking in the Spirit it is much easier to pray. I can usually tell what my relationship with the Lord is by how hard or how difficult a time I have praying. If prayers are cold I ask the Lord what is wrong. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin. It is our part to confess that we are wrong and God is right. I trust in the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse me from all sin and unrighteousness.

My thought now is that praying in the Spirit is to pray to God without hindrance. I can pray in tongues but also pray in English so I can understand what I am saying. I do not think praying in the Spirit

simply means to speak in tongues. I think it means we deal with the sin so we can walk in the Spirit and then our prayers are in the Spirit.

This makes sense to me in this context where Jude said we build ourselves up in our most holy faith. Living a life of righteousness, staying in God's word, and staying in prayer will build up our most holy faith. These actions the believer does keeps us in the love of God. We will constantly live with a clear conscience and have no doubt of God's love for us. It is only when we hold on to sin that we doubt God's love. This sin might be an evil heart of unbelief towards the living God.

We need to let our heart go beyond acknowledging doctrines about Christ to touching Christ himself each day. We need doctrine but we need to touch the Lord those doctrines point to. To settle for doctrine is like deciding to sit under a road sign instead of continuing on to the final destination which the sign points to. Good doctrine points us to Christ Jesus.

We keep ourselves in the love of God and we also look for the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord is loving and kind toward us and filled with tender mercy. Read **Psalms 103:2-5**.

After exhorting the Christian to stay in God's love and live in the Spirit he reminded us of our responsibility toward others.

We have a responsibility to share what Jesus did for us. Showing compassion makes a difference. We may need to remind people to fear God and that a fire is waiting for those who do not repent. We point out sin which is like garments caked with dirt.

We see this pattern in the ministry of the Lord Jesus. To those who were humble he showed grace and compassion. To those who were proud he gave them God's law and would point out their sin. The Lord Jesus always demonstrated the love of the Father.

Don't be turned aside from duty towards others when they accuse you of being hard or mean. Sometimes proud people need to have their sin pointed out. God gives grace to the humble, but he opposes the proud. We need to adopt this pattern in our ministry to people. Don't be afraid to correct proud people of their sin. It is actually the most loving thing anyone can do for them.

What a wonderful promise we have at the end of Jude's letter. After reading about God's judgment upon the wicked we end with a tender word to the believer. God is able to keep us from falling. He will present us before himself without fault and with exceeding joy. I am certainly looking forward to this.

May the Lord have mercy on us this day and turn our heart to him in humility and in repentance. Let us not be of the group who is proud and wicked but instead let us join with the humble company of those saints who have gone before us. Amen.